

Armed only with pens, paper, and the occasional PDA, the new Project Development Storm Water Advisory Team (SWAT) was created this July as a means to exchange information between Headquarters and the Districts and to provide ongoing storm water and permit guidance for Project Development activities in the Districts. The Team will recommend statewide Project Development Program procedures to comply with the new National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) storm water permits. The Team may also consider statewide implementation issues that cut across other functional areas, such as Environmental and Maintenance. The Team will not be involved with specific projects, except as there are larger statewide issues of concern to the Team.

### Team Goals

1. Integrate permit requirements into biddable and buildable projects
2. Minimize impacts to project delivery
3. Consider the contributions of all Programs to water quality
4. Encourage uniformity and consistency of application in Districts
5. Link storm water and beautification activities
6. Institutionalize the storm water program so that it's a routine part of Project Development activities
7. Make recommendations on new products and practices

### Who is on the Team?

The SWAT is comprised of supervisory staff from Project Development, including Design, Hydraulics, Landscape Architecture, Local Programs, Construction, Project Management, Right of Way, and each of the Regions/Districts. Other Programs



with representatives on the Team include Environmental, Maintenance, Engineering Service Center and Encroachment Permits. Ranny Eckstrom, the Project Development Storm Water Manager, is the team leader.

### Team Direction

The Team's Sponsor is Bob Coleman, Deputy Director for Project Development. Mr. Coleman's vision for the Team is to find practical ways to conform to the NPDES permit requirements.

### Implementing SWAT Recommendations

The Team's Co-Sponsors are the Program Managers for each of the involved functional areas and are responsible for incorporating storm water into their respective Programs. The SWAT is strictly advisory. It will be up to the Co-sponsors and the Districts to implement Team recommendations within the normal Program authorities.

Some of the Team's products may include District guidance for:

- Development of Regional Water Quality Control Board Workplans
- Design and Construction compliance reviews
- Vegetative control
  - Noncompliance reporting
  - Self audits
  - Annual reports
- Design and construction of soil stabilization controls
- Review of Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans
- Work performed by others on the State highway system.

The Team may also assist with development of a statewide training plan, standard special provisions, standard plans, handbooks and other technical guidance documents.

## SWAT Team Comes to Project Development

The new Project Development Storm Water Advisory Team (SWAT) was created this July to provide ongoing storm water and NPDES permit guidance for Project Development activities in the Districts.

This bulletin is prepared monthly as an information resource on storm water quality issues related to the planning and design of transportation infrastructure.

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Bulletin and Permit questions or comments may be directed to Thomas Fung, Caltrans (916) 653-2115

## Hot Topic Hot Topic

### NPDES Permit Update

Two NPDES permits were on the agenda for approval at the July 15, 1999 State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) meeting: the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities and the Storm Water Permit for Caltrans. Although the General Permit was pulled from the agenda at the last minute, the Caltrans Permit was adopted. Approval for the General Permit should be back on the agenda for the August SWRCB meeting.